

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 HA-05 /091 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1426
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3457

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW MEETING WITH ZAPU OFFICIALS
IN LUSAKA

1. GRAHAM AND I MET WITH MUNODAWAFA (NATIONAL CHAIRMAN),
JOHAN NKOMO AND ONE OTHER ZAPU OFFICIAL AT THE BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSION IN LUSAKA MONDAY MORNING JUNE 19. WE
BRIEFED THEM ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS AND WENT
OVER MUCH THE SAME GROUND WE HAVE WITH THE OTHER PARTIES
EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION FOR A CON-
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REFERENCE AND INDICATING MOVEMENT INSIDE RHODESIA TOWARD
A MEETING. WE MADE CLEAR THAT WE THOUGHT THE
SALISBURY GROUP WAS PREPARED TO GO THROUGH WITH ELECTIONS
AND TRANSFER OF POWER ON DECEMBER 31 EVEN IF THE WAR
DID NOT END IF THERE WAS NO BETTER ALTERNATIVE.

2. WE WERE STRUCK BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GROWING IM-

PATIENCE AND HARDENING OF ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE ZAPU OFFICIALS. AS DISTINGUISHED FROM PAST MEETINGS, THEY RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AAP AND THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. MUNODAWAFA SAID THEY WERE GETTING BORED WITH THE PROCESS. JOHN NKOMO ASKED WHETHER THE AAP STILL HAD ANY RELEVANCE AND WHY A TRANSITION PERIOD WAS NECESSARY AT ALL.

3. THE ZAPU OFFICIALS DENIED THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION HAD ANY INVOLVEMENT IN KILLING THE SALVATION ARMY MISSIONARIES TWO WEEKS AGO IN WESTERN RHODESIA. THEY CONTENDED THAT THIS WAS THE WORK OF THE SELOUS SCOUTS MEANT TO EMBARRASS THE PF.

4. COMMENT: BELIEVE THE ZAPU OFFICIAL' ARE REFLECTING JOSHUA NKOMO'S VIEWS. THEIR HARDENING ATTITUDE COULD COME FROM AN ASSESSMENT THAT CONCLUDES THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS FALTERING OR FROM GROWING CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN MILITARY STRENGTH. IF THE LATTER, IT WOULD RESULT FROM FURTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH ONE SEES FREQUENTLY BEING TRANSPORTED THROUGH LUSAKA AND NEWLY TRAINED REINFORCEMENTS RATHER THAN FROM ANY ACTUAL MILITARY SUCCESSES. HOWEVER, I AM INCLINED TO INTERPRET IT MORE AS PRESSURE ON US AND THE INTENAL NATIONALISTS TO MOVE MORE QUICKLY TOWARDS AN ALL PARTY MEETING. EVEN IF A TACTIC, THE HARDENING COULD CREATE PROBLEMS
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FOR US.
EDMONDSON

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